

Southwest Scotland: Transport Mitigation Forum

3rd February 2015

Dumfries Arms Hotel Cumnock

In attendance: Craig Isles (EAC – Planning)
Christine Morris (EAC - Planning)
Sergeant John Munn – Police Scotland
Ian Horocot (New Cumnock Community Council)
Jerry Mulders (New Cumnock Community Council)
Anita Mulders
Denis O’Kane (SPEN)
Keith Gordon (IEC)
Karen MacGregor (SPEN)

Apologies: Cllr Billy Crawford
Cllr John Bell
Cllr William Menzies
Alan Ierland - Ayrshire Roads Alliance

Introductions

All in attendance introduced themselves and their role in relation to the scheme.

Presentation

DoK thanked all for attendance and covered purpose of the meeting and presented a Southwest Scotland connections project update to the group. Questions and discussions were taken throughout the presentation.

JM distributed copies of a map of windfarms in the area to the group.

JM enquired to the position of the Blackcraig to Margee connection, DoK provided brief update on progress, as this connection is part of a separate consent. JM raised the question if a wind farm is not consented what happens to the SPEN infrastructure that is being built. DoK explained the role of SPEN, with obligation to provide connection to windfarm developers. Noted there are contractual positions with National Grid who are then contracted with developers to deliver connections. These contracts have financial mechanisms to ensure relevant stages are commenced at appropriate times, with a suitable degree of security. CI & DoK explained that the wider connection Project is identified in the National Planning Framework as of national importance and there is significant renewable energy generation potential in the area for which this project is required.

JM asked for a breakdown on who pays for the connections and at what stage of the project, DoK & KM explained that connection agreements are commercially sensitive and not publically available. JM requested that an overview of the process could be provided. KM will check as to what information is public.

Actions

KM

IH asked for an update on local employment generated by project, KG stated that a conservative estimate of approx 15% of staff were local. A more accurate update would be sought for next meeting, but noted IEC are keen to recruit local staff where possible. JM asked what the process was for applying for jobs, KG explained that IEC do not employ direct this is done through contractors who use local agencies. KM advised that career opportunities at SP are on the website <http://www.scottishpower.com/pages/careers.asp>

KG

JM raised concerns over vehicles connected to the project using the roads in the area—DoK stated that all movements and road usage was agreed with EAC and Ayrshire Roads Alliance. Repairs maintenance would be carried out in agreement with these parties. DoK advised that the use of Clawfin Quarry for stone would reduce the number of lorries on the public road network. JM raised issues over safety – advised that any concerns over road conditions should be reported to Ayrshire Roads Alliance, dangerous driving behaviours were a matter for the Police.

JM requested if the quantities of stone could be made available. KG noted these figures were provided to EAC on a regular basis.

JM asked if the stone could be recycled for Community Projects, KM advised that if Community Groups in the area have projects they should contact the project via the email address outlining what the project is and how it will benefit the wider community. Requests will be considered and responded to, however it is noted that there are a range of issues associated with this, including requirements of the consent which SPEN must comply with.

JM stated that a banks man had been directing the traffic on the forestry road off B741. This had been in his opinion, helpful in alleviating congestion on this road. JM asked if there were plans for this to be resumed? KG noted that this would be a matter for the contractor to decide, but not aware of any intention to do so. JM also requested a direct number to contact should vehicles intended for the project works have an incident and block the road at his premises (this has occurred on previous occasions) . KG to investigate.

KG

Sgt Munn reiterated that if there were any concerns over safety issues from vehicles this should be reported directly to the Police. Also requested the name of the security companies and contact for the Project site KG will provide.

KG

JM queried some details of Terms of Reference.

Sought clarification on scope of group in relation to cumulative transport impact. DOK noted point on transport issues intended to focus attention of the group on the SWS project, rather than any other wider road network/road safety issues attendees may have (which should be directed to Roads Authority/Police as appropriate). The group is established in relation to Part A, but there will be a similar requirement for future parts of project in due course, and we would hope this format will be followed, including addressing transport issues associated with each part of the project.

Sought clarification on who can attend group. DOK noted that those entitled to attend group are as set out in condition and Terms of Reference. It is considered that the appropriate

avenue for individuals to interact with the group is through their respective community councils and elected members who are invited to participate in the group.

Sought clarification on timescale for issue of meeting notice and agenda. Suggested a 3 week notice period in advance of meeting.

Sought clarification on frequency of meetings being decided 'by group' and 'as necessary'. DOK noted these terms were proposed to help enable effective operation of the group. It was agreed that there would be quarterly meetings of group, with additional arranged as deemed appropriate by group.

JM asked if SP would be willing to help with the Adopt a street litter initiative, JM proposed that SP could adopt the B714, KG explained that regular litter checks 200m on either side of the substation were already carried out. CI/CM pointed out that there was no footpath on the B714 therefore safety would be an issue. KM stated that if a litter pick day was organised by ALVN and appropriate traffic safety measures put in place SP would ask for volunteers to help on the day.

JM raised the question of access tracks for the towers on the overhead line route for Part A (Coylton – New Cumnock substations) could remain after works were complete to be used as public access, CI & DoK stated that as part of the Section 37 Consent these tracks are required to be removed and reinstated after completion of the development.

The Group agreed that the frequency (quarterly), time and location of the meeting was suitable. Frequency of the meeting could be reviewed in agreement with the Group. CI suggested that dates be put in the diary for the year. KM will arrange and circulate with the minutes.

KM